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Giannelli et al.

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(54) **ARM EXTENSION EXERCISE APPARATUS**

(71) Applicant: **Cybex International, Inc.**, Medway, MA (US)
(72) Inventors: **Raymond Giannelli**, Franklin, MA (US); **Mark Buontempo**, Millville, MA (US)
(73) Assignee: **Cybex International, Inc.**, Medway, MA (US)

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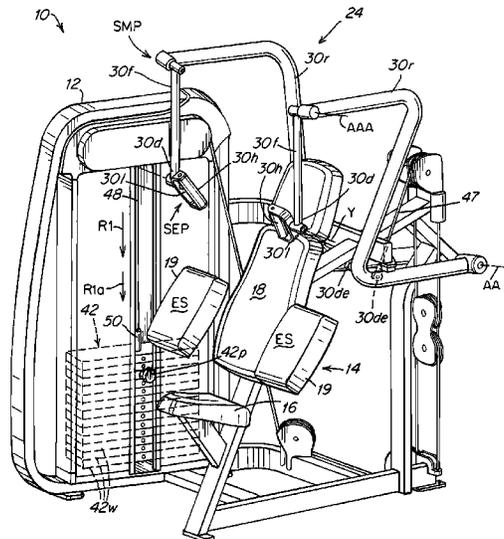
Primary Examiner — Jennifer M Deichl
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Andrus Intellectual Property Law, LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Apparatus for performing an arm extension exercise comprising:

- a frame,
- a seat having a seating surface (S),
- an elbow pad having an engaging surface (ES),
- an input arm assembly interconnected to a resistance mechanism and a manually graspable mechanism, the input arm assembly being adapted to reside in a start motionless position (SMP) that disposes the manually graspable mechanism in a start exercise position (SEP) that is disposed vertically above UW) the user's elbows,
- the input arm assembly being pivotable around a linear axis disposed rearwardly of the user's elbow.

6 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets



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A63B 23/035 (2006.01)
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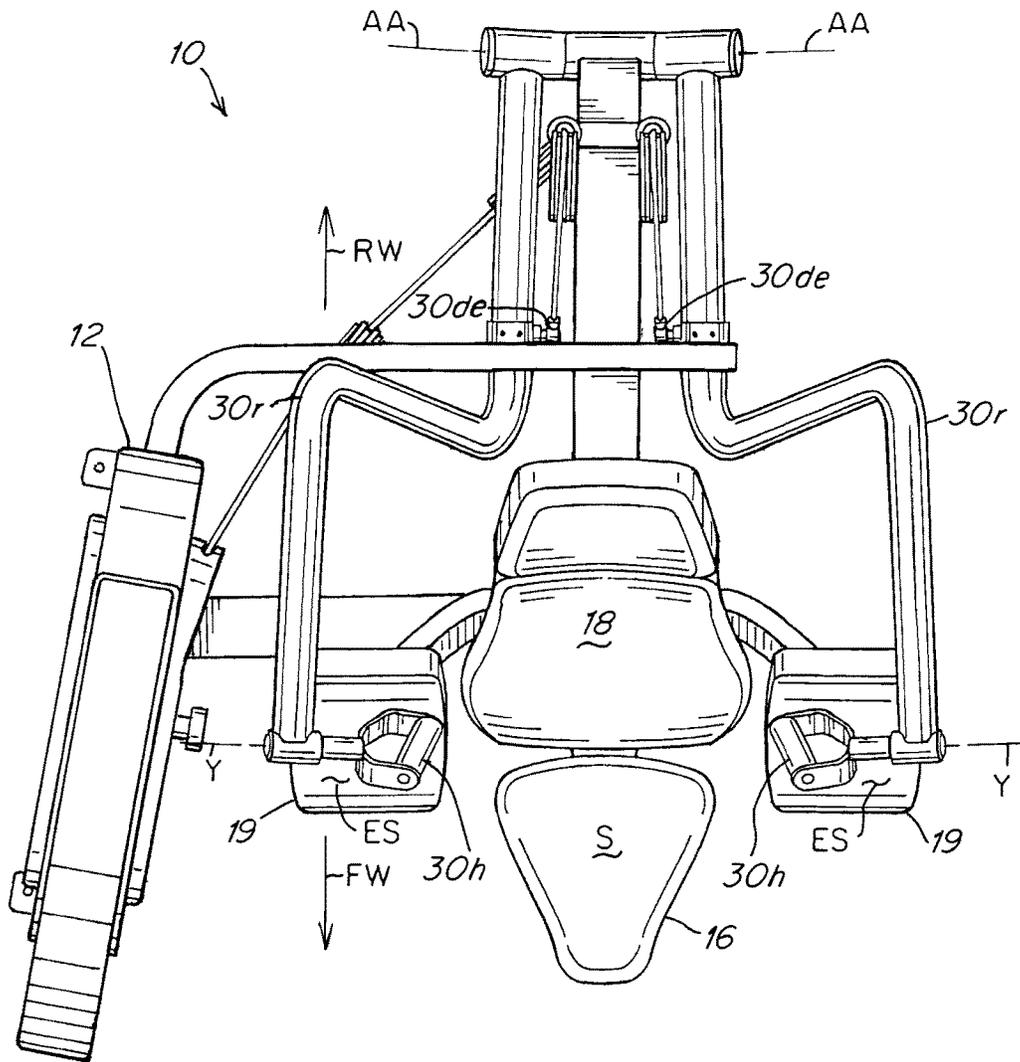


Fig. 4

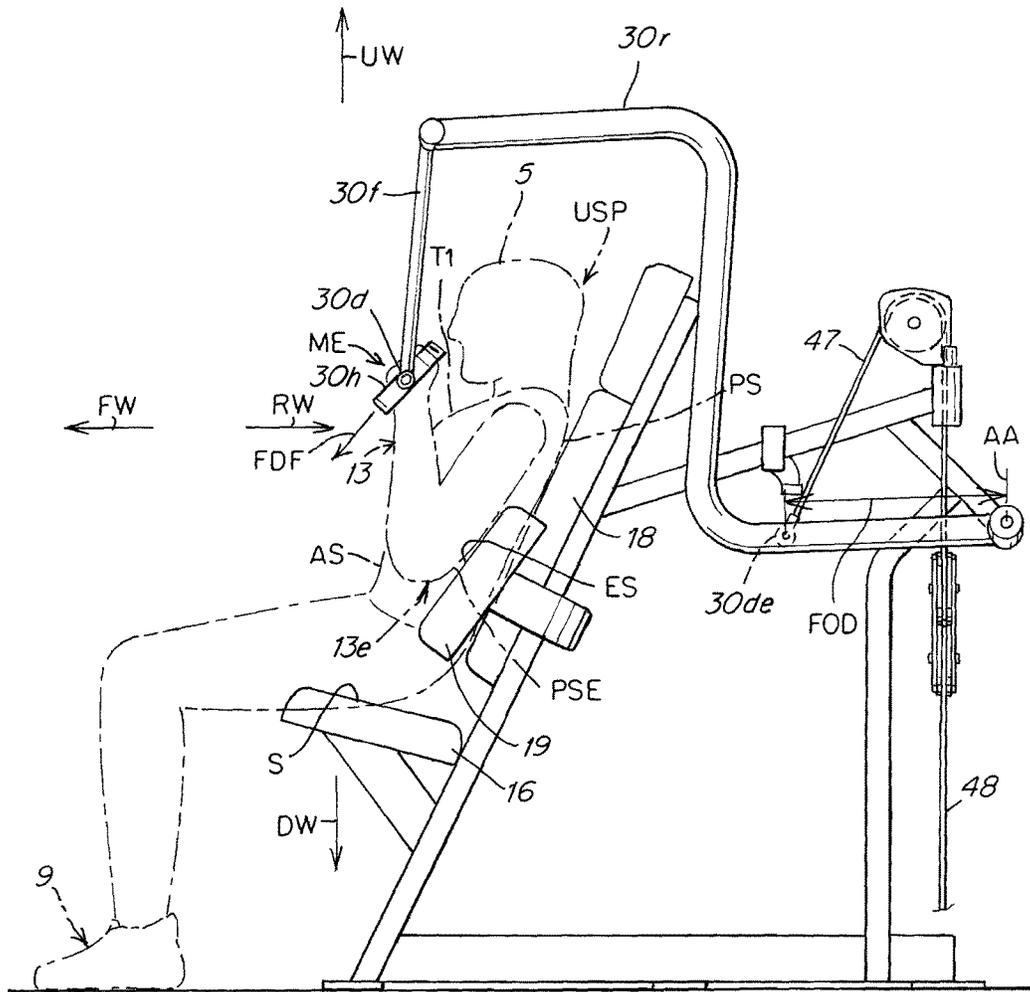


Fig. 5A

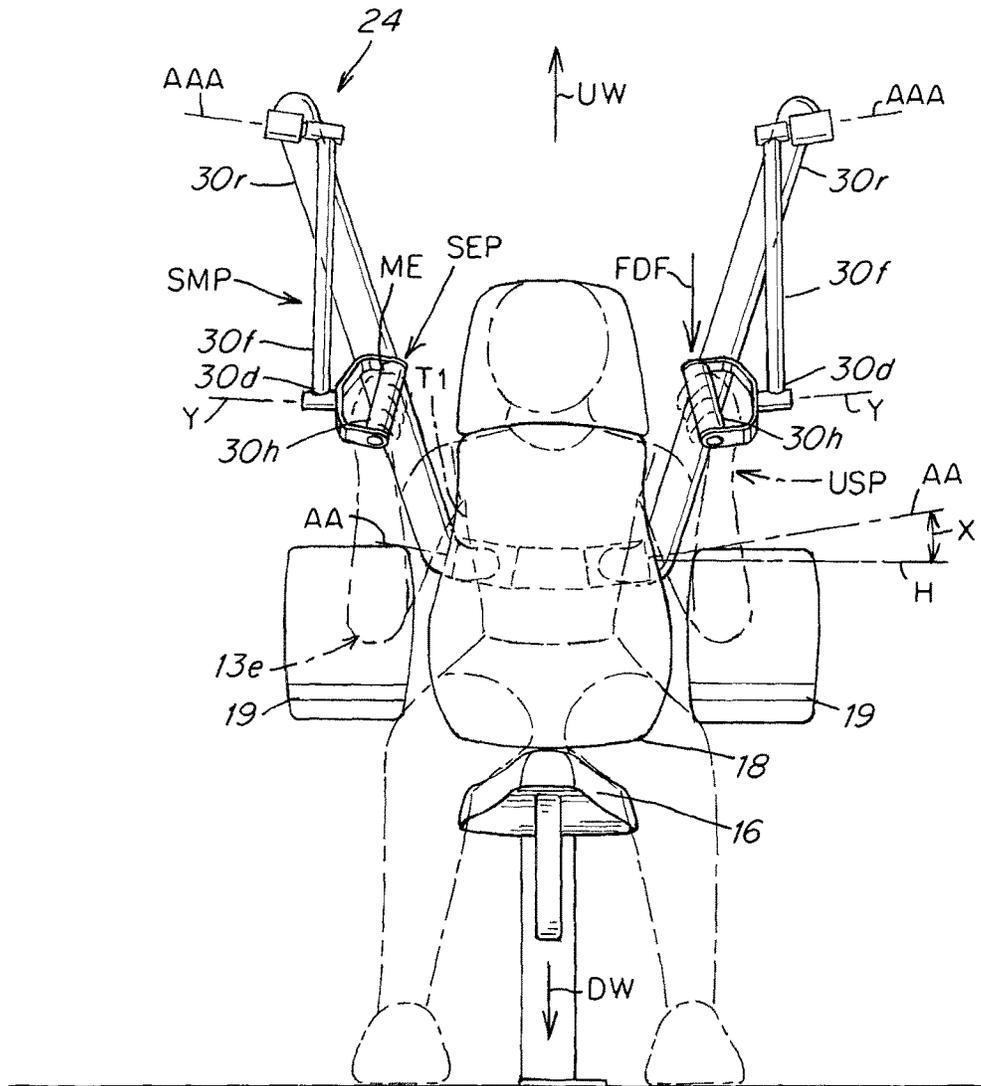


Fig. 6A

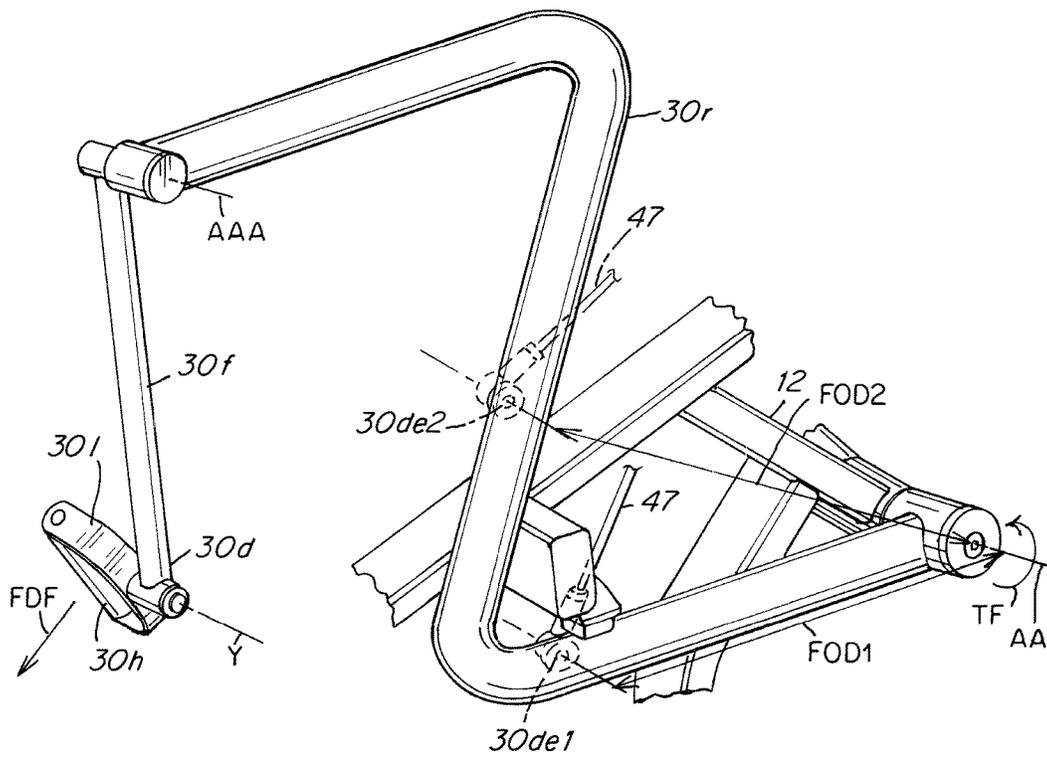


Fig. 7

ARM EXTENSION EXERCISE APPARATUS

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation U.S. application Ser. No. 14/995,502, filed Jan. 14, 2016 which is a continuation of PCT/US2015/019855, filed Mar. 11, 2015 which claims the benefit of priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/951,011 filed Mar. 11, 2014 and U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/951,059 filed Mar. 11, 2014 and U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/951,026 filed Mar. 11, 2014 and U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/951,034 filed Mar. 11, 2014 and U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/951,046 filed Mar. 11, 2014 the disclosures of all of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety as if fully set forth herein

This application incorporates by reference the disclosures of all of the following in their entirety as if fully set forth herein: U.S. Pat. Nos. 7,666,123, 7,717,831, 4,725,054, 8,070,658, 7,278,955, 8,025,609, 7,727,128, D486,535, D490,127, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0092541, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2007/0173384, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0270531, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2008/0167169, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2010/0204021.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to physical exercise machines and more particularly to an exercise apparatus that enables users to perform an arm extension exercise that is resisted by a resistance mechanism.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Exercise machines for exercising bicep muscles are known where the user is forced to engage a handle that rotates forcing the user to exert force via wrist and muscles other than the biceps.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The state of the art in arm extension machines is typically configured as a single joint axis machine where there is either one link with a grip attached where the axis of the arm is coincident with the axis of rotation of the users elbow or two links where the primary link axis is aligned with the users elbow and the secondary link acts as a trailing link to allow for varying forearm lengths. In such configurations, the user has to adjust their position to align their elbow axis with the machine axis or there will be adverse loading at the elbow. In addition, with a single joint axis machine, as the arm travels through the range of motion towards full extension, the applied load at the hand increases the subsequent loading at the shoulder to the extent that the shoulder torque is double of the torque applied to the elbow which is the joint that is being trained. This severely limits the elbow from receiving the correct training load without overloading the shoulder. There are prior art machines that solve this problem by using a trailing link in a primarily horizontal plane with an arm axis that is not coincident with the users elbow. The limitation of that method is it requires the adjustment of two elbow support pads as well as a seat height adjustment to get the user in the correct position based on their physical size and arm position.

The present invention provides an arm extension apparatus that has a trailing link on the end of an arm that is not coincident with the elbow axis and unlike the prior art is

primarily in the vertical plane. The benefit to this is there are not adjustments to any support pads or seat to get the user into the proper exercise position. The present invention has the variability to accommodate users of any size and body type without adjustment and the benefit of keeping the adverse torque at the shoulder less than half of what it would be in a single axis machine that is aligned with the elbow axis.

In accordance with the invention there is provided an apparatus (10) for performing an arm extension exercise by a user (5) having a trunk (T1) having a longitudinal axis (LA), opposing anterior (AS) and posterior (PS) sides and arms (13) with elbows (13e) extending from the trunk (T1), the apparatus comprising:

a frame (12),

a seat (16) having a seating surface (S),

an elbow pad (19) having an engaging surface (ES),

an input arm assembly (24) interconnected to a resistance mechanism (42) and a manually graspable mechanism (30h), the input arm assembly being pivotably mounted (AA) on the frame for back and forth travel along a generally upward (UW) to downward (DW) or forward (FW) to rearward (RW) direction, the input arm assembly (24) being adapted to reside in a start motionless position (SMP) relative to a selected arrangement of the seat (16) and elbow pad (19) that disposes the manually graspable mechanism (30h) in a start exercise position (SEP) that is disposed vertically above UW) a point of engagement of a posterior surface (PSE) of the user's elbows (13e) with the engaging surface (ES) when the user is seated on the seating surface (S) in an orientation where the anterior surface (AS) of the user's trunk (T1) is facing generally forwardly (FW),

the seat (16) and elbow pad (18) being configured and arranged relative to the input arm assembly (24) to position the user in a user start position (USP) that enables the user to manually engage (ME) the manually graspable mechanism (30h) when the user is seated in an orientation where a posterior surface (PSE) of the user's elbow (13e) is engaged with the engaging surface (ES) of the elbow pad (19) and the anterior and posterior sides of the user's trunk are oriented in a generally forward (FW) to rearward (RW) direction,

the input arm assembly comprising a first arm (30r) being rotatably pivotable around a first linear axis (AA) starting from the start exercise position (SEP) through a generally rearward to forward or upward to downward path of travel under resistance (R1) exerted by the resistance mechanism on application of forwardly or downwardly directed force (FDF) by the user (5) on the manually graspable mechanism (30h),

the input arm assembly comprising a second arm (30f) rotatably pivotable around a second linear axis (AAA) along a generally rearward to forward or upward to downward path of travel on application of forwardly or downwardly directed force (FDF) by the user (5) on the manually graspable mechanism (30h).

The seat (16), elbow pad (19) and arm assembly (24) are preferably arranged on the apparatus such that the first linear axis (AA) of pivoting of the arms (30f, 30r) is disposed rearwardly (RW) of the user's elbow (13e) when the user is seated on the seating surface (S) and the posterior surface (PSE) of the user's elbow (13e) is engaged with the engaging surface (ES).

The second arm (30f) is preferably pivotable together with the first arm 30r around the first linear axis (AA) under resistance (R1, R1a) exerted by the resistance mechanism on application of generally forwardly downwardly force (FDF)

by the user on the manually graspable mechanism (30*h*) starting from the start exercise position (SEP).

The manually graspable mechanism can comprise a handle link (301) pivotably mounted to the second arm (30*f*) for separate rotation around a handle axis (Y).

The input arm assembly (24) is typically interconnected to the resistance mechanism (42) at a point of interconnection (30*de*) of the input arm assembly that is spaced a selected orthogonal distance (FOD) apart from the first linear axis (AA) selected to create a first selected torque resistance from the resistance mechanism against rearward (RW) to forward (FW) movement of the input arm assembly.

The input arm assembly (24) is preferably interconnected to the resistance mechanism (42) at a point of interconnection (30*de*) of the input arm assembly that is disposed rearwardly (RW) of the user's elbow (13*e*) when the user is seated on the seating surface (S) and the posterior surface (PSE) of the user's elbow (13*e*) is engaged with the engaging surface (ES).

The first linear axis (AA) and second linear axis (AAA) are typically disposed generally parallel relative to each other.

The first linear axis (AA) and the third linear axis are typically disposed generally parallel to each other.

The first linear axis (AA) is preferably arranged at an angle (X) relative to horizontal (H) that is selected to direct the first arm (30*r*) to travel along a side to side (SS) or lateral path of travel laterally away from (LATO) a midline (M) of the user when the user exerts forwardly or downwardly (FDF) force on the first arm (30*r*) beginning from the start motionless position (SMP) and the user (5) is seated on the seat surface (S) with the user's anterior (AS) surface facing forwardly (FW).

In another aspect of the invention there is provided a method of performing an arm extension exercise comprising:

a user being seated on the seat of the exercise apparatus described above in a disposition where the user is seated on the seating surface, the anterior and posterior sides of the user's trunk are oriented generally in the forward to rearward direction, and the posterior surface of the user's elbow (PSE) is engaged with the engaging surface (ES) of the elbow pad (19),

the user manually engaging (ME) the manually graspable mechanism, and

the user applying a forwardly or downwardly directed force (FDF) on the manually graspable mechanism (30*h*) against resistance (R1, R1*a*) from the resistance mechanism.

Apparatus (10) for performing an arm extension exercise by a user (5) having a trunk (T1) having a longitudinal axis (LA), opposing anterior (AS) and posterior (PS) sides and arms (13) with elbows (13*e*) extending from the trunk (T1), the apparatus comprising:

a frame (12),

a seat (16) having a seating surface (S),

an elbow pad (19) having an engaging surface (ES),

an input arm assembly (24) interconnected to a resistance mechanism (42) and a manually graspable mechanism (30*h*), the input arm assembly being pivotably mounted (AA, AAA) on the frame for back and forth travel along a generally upward (UW) to downward (DW) and forward (FW) to rearward (RW) direction, the input arm assembly (24) being adapted to reside in a start motionless position (SMP) relative to a selected arrangement of the seat (16) and elbow pad (19) that disposes the manually graspable mechanism (30*h*) in a start exercise position (SEP) that is disposed vertically above UW the user's elbows (13*e*) when the user

is seated on the seating surface (S) in an orientation where the anterior surface (AS) of the user's trunk (T1) is facing generally forwardly (FW),

the seat (16) and elbow pad (18) being configured and arranged relative to the input arm assembly (24) to position the user in a user start position (USP) that enables the user to manually engage (ME) the manually graspable mechanism (30*h*) when the user is seated in an orientation where a posterior surface (PSE) of the user's elbow (13*e*) is engaged with the engaging surface (ES) of the elbow pad (19) and the anterior and posterior sides of the user's trunk are oriented in a generally forward (FW) to rearward (RW) direction,

the input arm assembly comprising a first arm (30*r*) being rotatably pivotable around a first linear axis (AA) starting from the start exercise position (SEP) through a generally rearward to forward or upward to downward path of travel under resistance (R1) exerted by the resistance mechanism on application of forwardly or downwardly directed force (FDF) by the user (5) on the manually graspable mechanism (30*h*),

the seat (16), elbow pad (19) and arm assembly (24) being arranged on the apparatus such that the first linear axis (AA) of pivoting of the arm (30*r*) is disposed rearwardly (RW) of the user's elbow (13*e*) when the user is seated on the seating surface (S) and the posterior surface (PSE) of the user's elbow (13*e*) is engaged with the engaging surface (ES).

The input arm assembly can comprise a second arm (30*f*) rotatably pivotable around a second linear axis (AAA) along a generally rearward to forward or upward to downward path of travel on application of forwardly or downwardly directed force (FDF) by the user (5) on the manually graspable mechanism (30*h*).

The second arm (30*f*) is preferably pivotable together with the first arm 30*r* around the first linear axis (AA) under resistance (R1, R1*a*) exerted by the resistance mechanism on application of generally forwardly downwardly force (FDF) by the user on the manually graspable mechanism (30*h*) starting from the start exercise position (SEP).

The manually graspable mechanism (30*h*) preferably comprises a handle link (301) pivotably mounted to the second arm (30*f*) for separate rotation around a handle axis (Y).

The input arm assembly (24) is typically interconnected to the resistance mechanism (42) at a point of interconnection (30*de*) of the input arm assembly that is spaced a selected orthogonal distance (FOD) apart from the first linear axis (AA) selected to create a first selected torque resistance from the resistance mechanism against rearward (RW) to forward (FW) movement of the input arm assembly.

The input arm assembly (24) can be interconnected to the resistance mechanism (42) at a point of interconnection (30*de*) of the input arm assembly that is disposed rearwardly (RW) of the user's elbow (13*e*) when the user is seated on the seating surface (S) and the posterior surface (PSE) of the user's elbow (13*e*) is engaged with the engaging surface (ES).

The first linear axis (AA) and second linear axis (AAA) are typically disposed generally parallel relative to each other.

The first linear axis (AA) is preferably arranged at an angle (X) relative to horizontal (H) that is selected to direct the first arm (30*r*) to travel along a side to side (SS) or lateral path of travel laterally away from (LATO) a midline (M) of the user when the user exerts forwardly or downwardly (FDF) force on the first arm (30*r*) beginning from the start

motionless position (SMP) and the user (5) is seated on the seat surface (S) with the user's anterior (AS) surface facing forwardly (FW).

A method of performing an arm extension exercise comprising:

a user being seated on the seat of the exercise apparatus described immediately above in a disposition where the user is seated on the seating surface, the anterior and posterior sides of the user's trunk are oriented generally in the forward to rearward direction, and the posterior surface of the user's elbow (PSE) is engaged with the engaging surface (ES) of the elbow pad (19),

the user manually engaging (ME) the manually graspable mechanism, and

the user applying a forwardly or downwardly directed force (FDF) on the manually graspable mechanism (30h) against resistance (R1, R1a) from the resistance mechanism.

In another aspect of the invention there is provided an apparatus (10) for performing a pull down exercise by a user (5) having a trunk (T1) having a longitudinal axis (LA), opposing anterior (AS) and posterior (PS) sides and an arm (13) with elbow (13e) extending from the trunk (T1), the apparatus comprising:

a frame (12),

a seat (16) having a seating surface (S),

an elbow pad (19) having an engaging surface (ES),

an input arm assembly (24) interconnected to a resistance mechanism (42) and a manually graspable mechanism (30h), the input arm assembly being pivotably mounted on the frame for back and forth travel along a generally upward (UW) to downward (DW) and forward (FW) to rearward (RW) direction, the input arm assembly (24) being adapted to reside in a start motionless position (SMP) relative to a selected arrangement of the seat (16) and elbow pad (19) that disposes the manually graspable mechanism (30h) in a start exercise position (SEP) that is disposed vertically above the user's elbow (13e) when the user is seated on the seating surface (S) in an orientation where the anterior surface (AS) of the user's trunk (T1) is facing generally forwardly (FW),

the seat (16) and elbow pad (19) being arranged relative to the input arm assembly (24) to position the user in a user start position (USP) that enables the user to manually engage (ME) the manually graspable mechanism (30h) when the user is seated in an orientation where a posterior surface (PSE) of the user's elbow (13e) is engaged with the engaging surface (ES) of the elbow pad (19) and the anterior and posterior sides of the user's trunk are oriented in a generally forward (FW) to rearward (RW) direction,

the input arm assembly comprising a first arm (30r) being rotatably pivotable around a first linear axis (AA) starting from the start exercise position (SEP) through a generally rearward (RW) to forward (FW) or upward (UW) to downward (DW) path of travel under resistance (R1, R1a) exerted by the resistance mechanism on application of forwardly to rearwardly directed force (FDF) by the user (5) on the manually graspable mechanism (30h),

the manually graspable mechanism (30h) being pivotably mounted to the arm assembly (24) and pivotable around a third linear axis (Y).

The seat (16), elbow pad (19) and arm assembly (24) are preferably arranged on the apparatus such that the first linear axis (AA) of pivoting of the arm (30f) is disposed rearwardly (RW) of the user's elbow (13e) when the user is seated on the seating surface (S) and the posterior surface (PSE) of the user's elbow (13e) is engaged with the engaging surface (ES).

The input arm assembly preferably comprises a second arm (30f) rotatably pivotable around the first linear axis (AA) and a second linear axis (AAA) along a generally rearward to forward or upward to downward path of travel on application of forwardly or downwardly directed force (FDF) by the user (5) on the manually graspable mechanism (30h).

The second arm (30f) is preferably pivotable around the second linear axis (AAA) on application of generally forwardly downwardly directed force (FDF) by the user on the manually graspable mechanism (30h) starting from the start exercise position (SEP).

The manually graspable mechanism can comprise a handle link 301 pivotably mounted to the second arm (30f) for separate rotation around the handle axis (Y).

The input arm assembly (24) can be interconnected to the resistance mechanism (42) at a point of interconnection (30de) of the input arm assembly that is spaced a first selected orthogonal distance (FOD) apart from the first linear axis (AA) selected to create a first selected torque resistance from the resistance mechanism against forward (FW) to rearward (RW) movement of the input arm assembly.

The first linear axis (AA) and second linear axis (AAA) can be disposed generally parallel relative to each other.

The first linear axis (AA) and the third linear axis (Z) can be disposed generally parallel to each other.

The second linear axis (AAA) and the third linear axis (Z) can be disposed generally parallel to each other.

Either the first linear axis (AA) or the second linear axis (AAA) is preferably arranged at an angle (X) relative to horizontal (H) that is selected to direct the first arm (30r) or the second arm (30f) to travel along a side to side (SS) or lateral path of travel laterally away from (LATO) a midline (M) of the user when the user exerts forwardly or downwardly (FDF) force on the first arm (30r) beginning from the start motionless position (SMP) and the user (5) is seated on the seat surface (S) with the user's anterior (AS) surface facing forwardly (FW).

In another aspect of the invention there is provided a method of performing an arm curl exercise comprising:

a user being seated on the seat of the exercise apparatus described immediately above in a disposition where the user is seated on the seating surface, the anterior and posterior sides of the user's trunk are oriented generally in the forward to rearward direction, and the posterior surface of the user's elbow is engaged with the engaging surface of the elbow pad,

the user manually engaging (ME) the manually graspable mechanism, and

the user applying a forwardly or downwardly directed force (FDF) on the manually graspable mechanism against resistance from the resistance mechanism.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and further advantages of the invention may be better understood by referring to the following description in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a front left side perspective view of an arm curl exercise apparatus according to the invention.

FIG. 2 is a rear left side perspective view of the FIG. 1 apparatus.

FIG. 3 is a front view of the FIG. 1 apparatus in a start motionless position.

FIG. 4 is a top plan view of the FIG. 1 apparatus.

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FIG. 5A is a schematic left side view of the FIG. 1 apparatus showing a user in a start exercise position.

FIG. 5B is a view similar to FIG. 5A showing the user performing an arm extension exercise.

FIG. 6A is a schematic front view of the FIG. 1 apparatus showing a user in a start exercise position.

FIG. 6B is a schematic front view of the FIG. 1 apparatus showing a user performing an arm extension exercise.

FIG. 7 is a left front fragmentary perspective view of an arm assembly of the FIG. 1 apparatus.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In an exemplary embodiment, as shown in FIGS. 1, 2 an arm extension apparatus 10 of the present invention includes a support frame 12 on which a user support structure 14 is mounted. The user support structure 14 includes a seat surface 16, elbow pads 19 and a back rest 18. The seat 16 has a seating surface S and is mounted on the frame 12 disposed along a midline M between a pair of laterally disposed elbow pads 19 and laterally disposed input arm assemblies 24 which are comprised of a first arm 30r that is rotatably mounted to the frame for rotation around an axis AA. The axis AA is disposed rearwardly RW of the point of engagement of the posterior surface PSE of the user's elbow 13e when engaged with an elbow engaging surface ES of the pad 19. The input arm assembly 24 includes a second arm 20f that is rotatably mounted to a distal end of the first arm portion for rotation around a second axis AAA.

As shown, axes AA and AAA are approximately or generally parallel to each other, FIGS. 5A-6B. Axis AA is typically disposed at an acute angle X relative to horizontal H, FIGS. 6A, 6B, typically between about 5 degrees and about 75 degrees. Angle X is arranged such that the path of travel of the arms 30r and 30f when pulled forwardly and downwardly FDF by the user 5 beginning from a start motionless position SMP is generally laterally outwardly LATO away from a midline M of the user along a side to side SS or lateral path of travel.

The apparatus 10 includes handles 30h rotatably mounted for rotation around a third axis Y to enable the user's wrists to readily rotate the handles without resistance when pulling on the handles 30h.

The arms 30f, 30r are mounted to the frame 12 and arranged and adapted so as to be interconnected to a weight resistance (in this embodiment a weight stack 42). The weight stack 42 is selectively connectable to one end of a cable 48 by inserting a pin in one of a plurality of holes in a lifting post 50 that passes vertically through the plates 42w, as is well known in the art. For example, the weight stack 42 is formed by a stack of rectangular, brick-shaped plates 42w. Each plate 42w further has at least one horizontal channel or hole, wherein a pin 42p may be disposed to slidably engage any of a series of horizontal channels which are vertically oriented on the lifting post 50 in a spaced apart manner to match the vertical spacing of the stacked weight plates 42w. The pin 42p thereby engages a portion of the stack of weight plates 52, such that when vertical force FDF is applied to the lifting post 50, the selected stack of weight plates 42w is moved upwards to create a resistance R1, R1a. Typically, the weight stack 42 apparatus is oriented such that the further down the pin 42p is entered into the lifting post 50, the greater the number of plates 42w are engaged, thereby increasing the resistance R1, R1a of the machine 10.

In operation, the user 5 starts an exercise seated on the surface S with the user's anterior surface AS facing forwardly FW. At the start of the exercise the arms 30r, 30f and

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handles 30h are disposed in a start motionless position SMP and the handles 30h are disposed in the start exercise position SEP vertically above the point of engagement of the posterior surface PSE of the user's elbow with the engaging surface ES of the elbow pads 19. The user reaches upwardly UW and grabs the handles 30h or manually engages ME a handle 30h and exerts a forwardly or downwardly directed force FDF on the handle 30h which causes the user's elbows to travel downwardly and the posterior surface PSE of the user's elbow 13e to engage the engaging surface ES. The user then continues to exert additional forwardly or downwardly directed force FDF on the handles and the arms 30r rotates around axis AA with arm 30f rotating around both axes AA and AAA. As the arm 30r rotates around axis AA, cable 47 pulls under the user's force FDF to lift the selected number of weights 42w against their weight resistance R1, R1a.

The point of interconnection 30de of the cable 47 is to arm 30r such that the load or resistance R1, R1a is imposed on rotation TF of arm 30r and not on rotation of arm 30f around axis AAA.

In alternative embodiments, other mechanisms for providing resistance, such as friction fittings, springs, elastic bands, pneumatic or electromagnetic resistance, or an air resistance fan could be employed (either alone or in combination) and still practice the invention. Additionally, free weights could be operably engaged to the transmission 50 assembly to resist the movement.

The seat 16 is mounted on the frame in a position relative to the ground such that a user 5 can sit on the seat with the user's feet 9 touching the ground. The back rest 18 is mounted to the frame 12 relative to the seat 16 such that the user can engage the user's back PS against the back rest when seated S on the seat 16.

A pair of elbow pads 19 are mounted to the frame laterally relative to the backrest 18 in an arrangement and adapted such that a user 5 seated on the seat 16 can engage the posterior surface of the user's elbows PSE against the engaging surface ES of elbow pads 19 when seated. The input arm assembly 30 includes a pair of handles 30h mounted to a distal end 30d of the pivotable arm 30f, the arms 30f, 30r being mounted and adapted to dispose the grips or handles 30h in a starting or rest position SEP that is forwardly FW and above UW the point of engagement of the posterior surface PSE of the user's elbows 13e with the engaging surface ES of the elbow pads 19 when the user is properly seated on surface S in a position ready to manually engage ME the handles 30h.

The arm portion 30r is connected to the manually selectively adjustable weight resistance mechanism 42 via a cable and pulley assembly 47, 48, that is connected to the arm 30r at a connection point 30de that is disposed a preselected orthogonal distance FOD from the axis of rotation AA. The orthogonal distance FOD and point of connection 30de are selected to require a predetermined amount of torque force FDF necessary to lift the selected number of weights 42w via the cable 47, 48 and pulley interconnection to the stack 42. As shown, the cable assembly 47, 48 is interconnected downstream to the manifold pole 50 of the weight resistance mechanism. Forward FW and downward DW movement of arm 30r around axis AA, as well as forward and downward movement of arm 30f around axis AAA, results from a user's pushing or pulling FDF on a handle 30h beginning from the start motionless position SMP of the arm assembly 24. Such exertion of force FDF is resisted R1, R1a by the weight resistance mechanism 42 opposing rotation around axis AA by arm 30r. In the embodiments shown in FIGS.

1-7, when arm **30r** moves forwardly FW or downwardly DW beginning from the start position SMP, the selected weight plates **42w** will be lifted from the stack **42**. When arm **30r** moves rearwardly RW or upwardly UW, the lifted weights **42w** will be lowered downwardly via the interconnection to cable W.

The grip or handle **30h** is rotatably mounted on a distal end **30d** of the forward arm **30f** for free rotation around axis Y and is interconnected to the resistance mechanism **42** via interconnection to the arm **30r**.

The seat **16**, the back rest **18** and the elbow pads **19** are preferably fixedly mounted to the frame **12** and do not require adjustment by a user regardless of size, shape or configuration of the user. The arrangement and configuration of the seat **16** and elbow pads **19** are preferably selected such that a human being user of any size or configuration can seat themselves on the seating surface S with their anterior surface AS facing forwardly FW such that the posterior surface PSE of the user's elbow **13e** will always be positioned such that the elbow surface PSE is engageable against the engaging surface ES of the elbow pad **19** without vertical or horizontal adjustment of the seat **16**.

The second arm portion **30f** is pivotably mounted to a distal end of the first arm **30r** for rotation around a second axis AAA that is generally parallel to axis AA. Arm **30f** also can reciprocally travel or pivot both along a path that generally extends in a forward FW to rearward RW and upward UW to downward DW direction.

The seat, the back rest and the elbow pads are preferably fixedly mounted to the frame and do not require adjustment by a user regardless of size, shape or configuration of the user. The seat (**16**), seat surface (S), elbow pad (**19**) and engaging surface (ES) are configured and arranged on the frame such that a human being user of any human size or configuration, when seated on the seating surface (S) with the user's anterior surface (AS) facing forwardly (FW), can engage the posterior surface (PSE) of the user's elbow (**13e**) against the engaging surface (ES) of the elbow pad (**19**).

The first linear axis (AA) is preferably arranged at an angle (X) relative to horizontal (H) that is selected to direct the first arm (**30r**) to travel along a side to side (SS) or lateral path of travel laterally away from (LATO) a midline (M) of the user when the user exerts forwardly FW or downwardly DW directed force (FDF) on the first arm (**30r**) beginning from the start motionless position SMP and the user (**5**) is seated on the seat surface (S) with the user's anterior (AS) surface facing forwardly (FW). Acute angle X relative to horizontal H is preferably between about 20 degrees and about 75 degrees.

As shown in FIG. 7, the degree of torque force TF required to be exerted by the user **5** against the resistance F1, F1a of any given selected number of weights **42w** will depend on the degree of the orthogonal distance between the point of interconnection **30de** and the axis AA. As shown where the point of interconnection **30de2** is connected at an orthogonal distance that is larger distance FOD2 relative to a point **30de1** that is orthogonally spaced a lesser distance FOD1 from axis AA, the amount of torque force TF required will be concomitantly greater or lesser depending on the degree of the orthogonal distance FOD1 or FOD2.

What is claimed is:

1. Apparatus (**10**) for performing an arm extension exercise by a user (**5**) having a trunk (T1) having a longitudinal axis (LA), opposing anterior (AS) and posterior (PS) sides and arms (**13**) with elbows (**13e**) extending from the trunk (T1), the apparatus comprising:

a frame (**12**),

a seat (**16**) having a seating surface (S),

an elbow pad (**19**) having an engaging surface (ES),

a back rest (**18**) mounted to the frame (**12**) relative to the seat (**16**) such that the posterior side (PS) of the trunk (T1) of the user can engage the back rest (**18**) when the user is seated on the seat, and

an input arm assembly (**24**) interconnected to a resistance mechanism (**42**) and a manually graspable mechanism, the input arm assembly being pivotably mounted on the frame for back and forth travel along a generally upward (UW) to downward (DW) or forward (FW) to rearward (RW) direction,

characterized in that:

a) the seat (**16**) has a seating surface (S) mounted on the frame (**12**) along a midline (M) between a pair of laterally disposed elbow pads (**19**) and between a pair of laterally disposed input arm assemblies (**24**), each input arm assembly including a first arm (**30r**) that is rotatably mounted to the frame (**12**) for rotation around a first linear axis (AA) and a second forward arm (**30f**) that is rotatably mounted to a distal end of the first arm (**30r**) for rotation around a second linear axis (AAA), wherein the seat (**16**), the back rest (**18**) and the elbow pads (**19**) are fixedly mounted to the frame (**12**) such that the first linear axis (AA) is disposed rearwardly (RW) of a point of engagement of a posterior surface (PSE) of the user's elbow (**13e**) when engaged with the engaging surface (ES) of the elbow pad (**19**) when the user is seated on the seating surface (S),

b) the manually graspable mechanism comprising a pair of handles (**30h**), each handle being pivotably mounted to a distal end (**30d**) of the forward arm (**30f**) of the input arm assembly (**24**) with the handles (**30h**) adapted to reside in a start motionless position (SMP) relative to the fixedly mounted arrangement of the seat (**16**), the back rest (**18**) and the elbow pads (**19**) that disposes the handles (**30h**) in a start exercise position (SEP) that is disposed forwardly (FW) and vertically above (UW) the point of engagement of the posterior surface (PSE) of the user's elbows (**13e**) with the engaging surface (ES) when the user is seated on the seating surface (S) in an orientation where the anterior surface (AS) of the user's trunk (T1) is facing generally forwardly (FW),

c) wherein the first and linear second axes (AA, AAA) are generally parallel to each other and the first linear axis (AA) is disposed at an acute angle (X) relative to horizontal (H) such that the path of travel of the first and second arms (**30r**, **30f**), when the handles are pulled forwardly and downwardly by the user beginning from the start motionless position (SMP), is generally laterally outwardly (LATO) away from the midline (M) along a side to side or lateral path of travel,

d) each handle (**30h**) being rotatably mounted at the distal end of the forward arm (**30f**) for rotation around a third axis (Y) to enable the user's wrists to readily rotate the handles (**30h**) without resistance when pulling on the handles (**30h**), such that when pulled forwardly and downwardly by the user beginning from the start motionless position (SMP) the user's force on the handles (**30h**) causes the user's elbows (**13e**) to travel downwardly and the posterior surface (PSE) of the user's elbows to engage the engaging surface (ES).

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second arm (**30f**) is pivotable together with the first arm (**30r**) around the first linear axis (AA) under resistance (R1, R1a) exerted by the resistance mechanism on application of generally forwardly

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and downwardly force (FDF) exerted by the user on the manually graspable mechanism (30*h*) starting from the start exercise position (SEP).

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the input arm assembly (24) is interconnected to the resistance mechanism (42) at a point of interconnection (30*de*) of the input arm assembly that is spaced a selected orthogonal distance (FOD) apart from the first linear axis (AA) selected to create a first selected torque resistance from the resistance mechanism against rearward (RW) to forward (FW) movement of the input arm assembly.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the input arm assembly (24) is interconnected to the resistance mechanism (42) at a point of interconnection (30*de*) of the input arm assembly that is disposed rearwardly (RW) of the user's elbow (13*e*) when the user is seated on the seating surface (S) and the posterior surface (PSE) of the user's elbow (13*e*) is engaged with the engaging surface (ES).

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5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first linear axis (AA) and the third linear axis are disposed generally parallel to each other.

6. A method of performing an arm extension exercise comprising:

a user being seated on the seat of the exercise apparatus of claim 1 in a disposition where the user is seated on the seating surface, the anterior and posterior sides of the user's trunk are oriented generally in the forward to rearward direction, and the posterior surface of the user's elbow (PSE) is engaged with the engaging surface (ES) of the elbow pad (19),

the user manually engaging (ME) the manually graspable mechanism, and

the user applying a forwardly and downwardly directed force (FDF) on the manually graspable mechanism (30*h*) against resistance (R1, R1*a*) from the resistance mechanism.

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